LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 17, wherein the data storage ~~device (32)~~device has a read-only memory ~~area (34)~~area in which data concerning the seat have been stored ~~at the factory~~ during assembly of the seat.

3. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 17, wherein the data storage ~~device (32)~~ device has a readable and writable random access memory ~~area (36)~~area ~~in which data may be written and from which data may be read out during the service life of the seat~~.

4. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 17, wherein the data are stored permanently in the data storage ~~device (32)~~device, which is a non-erasable and non-rewritable data storage device.

5. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 17, wherein the data storage ~~device (32)~~device has a unique, unchangeable, and electronically readable identification number.

6. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 17, wherein data transmission between the data storage ~~device (32)~~device and the reading ~~device (50)~~device is effected ~~by wireless means, in particular~~ by a wireless device, wherein data may be read out of

the data storage ~~device (32) by wireless means~~device wirelessly and may be written into the data storage ~~device (32) by wireless means~~ device wirelessly.

7. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 17, wherein transmission of data between the data storage ~~device (32)~~device and the reading ~~device (50)~~device is effected by use of a plug connection~~, wirelined or wireless, in particular with a magnetic mounting or clamp mounting~~.

8. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 17, wherein the data storage ~~device (32) operates on the transponder principle~~comprises a transponder, and data ~~may be read from~~are writable to and readable from the data storage ~~device (32)~~device ~~or data may be written into the data storage device (32)~~ upon appropriate stimulation of the reading ~~device (50)~~device.

9. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 17, wherein ~~the energy~~ energy required for operation of the data storage ~~device (32) may be transmitted from the reading device (50) to the data storage device (32) or to a receiving unit associated with the data storage device (32) and connected to the data storage device (32)~~ device is retrieved from the reading device.

10. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 17, ~~wherein there is provided on the seat, in the area of the data storage device (32), a unit (66) for positioning the reading device (50), in particular a stop unit operating in conjunction with associated positioning~~

~~means (68) on the reading device (50)~~further comprising a positioning unit for positioning the reading device into a specifiable position in relation to the data storage device.

11. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in claim 10, wherein the positioning ~~unit (66) or positioning means (68)~~unit has a magnet ~~whereby~~ by which the reading ~~device (50)~~device ~~may be brought~~is placed into ~~a specifiable~~said specifiable position ~~in relation to the data storage device (32)~~.

12. (Currently amended) A seat having:

at least one seat component;

a data storage device mounted on the seat component and storing relevant data, wherein the relevant data is data that represents at least one of service life of the seat, certification of the seat, service life of the seat component, and certification of the seat component; and

an interface by which said relevant data is readable by an external reading device~~The seat as claimed in claim 1~~, wherein

the seat is included in a seat system, which includes a reading device for data transmission to the data storage device, and

the reading device has data transmission ~~means (62)~~means for reading ~~the individual data relevant to the service life or certification of the respective seat and/or individual seat components, and wherein~~ the relevant data,

the reading ~~device (50)~~device has storage means for intermediate storage of data read from the data storage ~~device (32) and/or data to be written into the data storage device (32)~~device.

13. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in claim 12, wherein the reading ~~device (50)~~device has a display ~~unit (54)~~unit for display of ~~the data read from the data storage device (32) and/or data to be written into the data storage device (32)~~ the relevant data.

14. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in claim 12, wherein the reading ~~device (50)~~device has positioning ~~means (68)~~means for positioning the reading ~~device (50), in particular a reading head,~~device in relation to the data storage ~~device (32)~~device for purposes of data transmission.

15. (Currently amended) The seat as claimed in claim 12, ~~wherein the intermediately stored data may be transmitted by means of~~ further comprising a standardized interface for transmitting the relevant data to a computer effecting further processing.

16. (New) The seat as claimed in claim 12, wherein the storage means is provided for intermediate storage of data to be written into the data storage device.

17. (New) A vehicle seat having:

at least one seat component;

a data storage device mounted in a stationary manner on the seat component and storing relevant data, wherein the relevant data is data that represents at least one of service life of the

seat, certification of the seat, service life of the seat component, and certification of the seat component; and

an interface by which said relevant data is readable by an external reading device.

18. (New) The seat as claimed in claim 17, wherein said building part is a seat component in the group consisting of arm rest, seat element, backrest, seat divider and seat pedestal.

19. (New) The seat as claimed in claim 17, wherein the data storage device is mounted into the building part such that it is not visible from the outside of the seat.

20. (New) The seat as claimed in claim 17, wherein the data storage device is integrated into the seat building part such that it is inaccessible from the exterior.

21. (New) The seat as claimed in claim 17, wherein said individual relevant data are data representing at least one of vehicle information, information about a vehicle operator, information about the position of the seat inside a vehicle, repair information and maintenance information.

22. (New) The seat as claimed in claim 17, wherein said individual relevant data are data representing at least one of aircraft type information, aircraft identification and airline information.

23. (New) The seat as claimed in claim 17, wherein the vehicle seat is an aircraft passenger seat.

24. (New) The seat as claimed in claim 9, wherein the energy is transmitted to the data storage device in a contact-free manner.